

**APPENDIX L**

**GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA  
11/10/99 RAB MEETING**

**GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY  
RAB Meeting – November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999**

The November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999 Gerstle River Expansion Area Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting was held at the Delta Junction Community Center, Delta Junction, Alaska at 6:00 p.m. The RAB Meeting was scheduled, based on the feedback from the previous RAB Meeting held on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

The meeting was advertised in the Delta Wind (Delta Junction, Alaska) in the October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1999 issue, and in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner from November 6<sup>th</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Notice of the meeting was broadcast as a public service announcement on the Armed Forces Radio Network at Fort Greely, Alaska from November 6<sup>th</sup> through November 10<sup>th</sup> 1999. Copies of the advertisements are included in Exhibit A.

Andrea Elconin (ACOE) presided over the meeting. Representatives from the Delta Junction community, State of Alaska Departments of Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources, the Fort Greely Safety Department, the ILRA City Council Advisory Board, the U.S. Corps of Engineers Alaska District (ACOE), and Clearwater Environmental, Inc. (contractor to the ACOE) were in attendance. A copy of the sign-in sheet for the meeting is included in Exhibit B.

Agenda items for the November 10 meeting included the following:

- Approve agenda;
- Approve the last two meeting minutes;
- Confirmation of the new RAB members;
- Drum removal results;
- COE Huntsville Division September site visit;
- New video;
- Future of RAB;
- Planned future actions;
- Agency comments;
- Date, time and proposed agenda items for next RAB meeting.

Current RAB members are listed on the current RAB Member Contact List included in Exhibit C. Minutes from the November 10, 1999 RAB meeting directly follow this summary.

The meeting was called to order by Andrea Elconin, ACOE, at 6:05 p.m.

**Introductions and sign-in:**

**RAB Members Present**

Andrea Elconin (ACOE)  
Irene Mead (Community Member)  
Tammy Webb (Community Member)  
Tim Webb (Community Co-Chair)  
P. R. Miller (Community Member)  
Bill Johnson (ILRA Commite City Council)

**Guests Present**

Robert Jett (Ft Greely Safety Manager)  
Eileen Krauklis (Clearwater Environmental, Inc.)  
Rielle Markey (ADEC)  
Sam Mills (ACOE/FRO)  
Dave Westerman (ACOE)

**NOTE:** During the introductions, Rielle Markey informed the board that Greg Light has taken another job and is no longer with this project and that until another Project Manager for GREA is assigned, she will be acting as a temporary contact for ADEC.

**AGENDA ITEMS (SEE ATTACHED AGENDA)**

1. **Approve Agenda** – The items on the agenda items for the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved and no modifications were made.
2. **Approve last two meetings minutes** – The minutes from the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

The August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting's minutes needs corrections, which will be made and sent to all board members via errata. These changes will be approved at the next RAB meeting. The changes include:

Page K-7, 2nd paragraph - "M. Clemens (Clearwater Environmental, Inc.) found a VX land mine, which doesn't correspond with a chemical weapon." P.R. Miller stated that a VX land mine is a chemical weapon and a correction should be made.

P. R. Miller made a suggestion in regard to the prescribed burns within the perimeters of sites 9E, 10N, and Borrow pits (*REF. August 11, 1999 RAB meeting minutes, page K-7, section 6, paragraph 1 "A. Elgrin stated that burning wouldn't be worth it because the sites are small and the brush wouldn't be consumed".*) He suggested that in order to solve the problem of an ineffective burn, a plow could be taken to the sites to disturb the top portion of the soil thus increasing air circulation and then burn it. A. Elconin noted his suggestion.

D. Westerman referred to page K-4, second paragraph of the August 11<sup>th</sup> RAB meeting minutes. He said that this entire section should be re-written, as there are inaccuracies. D. Westerman added that he was also confused about Page

K-5, first sentence referencing *"and rotating it as it hits the right wing and barrel and spins."* A. Elconin noted the request.

I. Mead recollects a picture from the Anchorage Daily News showing some drums that were found in the Gerstle River in the early 80's. She is concerned that if drums were found back then, then there may be more in the area. She is also concerned that limited records can be found regarding the Army testing. She will try to find the newspaper article and bring it to the next meeting. D. Westerman stated that sometimes drums were filled with sand to help prevent erosion of riverbeds and this could be a possible explanation. I. Mead also commented on a memory from her youth that she went on base with her father and saw a hunter's moose kill and remembers hearing the men talk about not eating the meat because of possible contamination. I. Mead expressed her concern in regards to this matter.

3. **Confirm new RAB members, if needed** - T. Webb made the motion to approve Bill Johnson as a new RAB member. I. Mead seconded the motion and Bill Johnson was approved /confirmed as a new RAB member. A. Elconin will send Mr. Johnson a booklet with the by-laws and all the minutes from the past meetings.
4. **Drum Removal Results** - S. Mills with the ACOE talked about the drums found in the Gerstle River Administration area. The drums had been found separated into two distinct areas: The Mound Area and the Borrow Pit. Drums were found partially buried in both sites. S. Mills proceeded with an explanation of what was expected to be found at both the sites, and what was actually found.

In the Mound Area, it was estimated that we would find approximately twenty, 55-gallon drums partially filled with residual liquid. The total volume of expected liquids was approximated as 20 gallons. Also, approximately 80 cubic yards of contaminated soil were expected. Instruments which measure hydrocarbons, and soil samples, were used to confirm soil contamination. A HazCat kit was also used to determine how hazardous the materials were in order to supply the field workers with additional personal protective equipment (PPE). What was found at the Mound Area varied from the expectations. One hundred fifty (150) 55-gallon drums were found partially filled with "fog oil" bringing the total volume to approximately 625 gallons. Fog oil is similar to 10W oil. The military used this oil to fog the atmosphere for camouflage purposes as well as for killing mosquitoes. Soil was excavated to a depth of 5 feet, where non-contaminated soil was reached. The actual volume of contaminated soil was 1,041 yards. The drums of oils and soils are stockpiled at Ft. Greeley. The excavation at the Mound Area will be backfilled this winter with clean material after confirmation sample results are received.

At the Borrow Pit, it was expected to find fifty, 55-gallon drums totaling 50 gallons of liquid, and approximately 220 cubic yards of contaminated soil. Instead, 81 drums and 20 gallons of fog oil were found. The fog oil was put into salvage drums and taken to Ft. Greely for storage and eventually recycling. In addition, 895 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated and transported to Ft. Greely's staging area. The soil was stockpiled on 10-mil polyethylene liners, and topped with more liners held in place by sandbags, to prevent soil run off. The soil will remain undisturbed until next May, at which time it will undergo thermal remediation. The Borrow Pit is still under excavation, waiting for final analyses of samples and for spring-thaw to finish digging. The areas are fenced in to prevent public access. Also, a soil-berm has been placed at the access road to keep motor vehicles from entering the site. S. Mills also showed pictures of the site clean up.

A. Elconin said that a portion of the Borrow Pit was excavated down to 15 feet and there is still contaminated soil at that depth. The other portion was excavated to about 7 feet, and contamination soil remains there, as well. All contaminated soil will be removed to a maximum depth of 15 feet next summer. Next year's field operation will start and finish in early summer. The ACOE expects to excavate anywhere from three hundred to one thousand more cubic yards of contaminated soil. The water table is approximately three hundred feet deep so no ground-water contamination is expected. The Borrow Pit will be backfilled with clean material once the excavation is completed.

The other two borrow pits along the access road were discussed. A. Elconin stated that the second Borrow Pit, the one in the middle, has no indications of any contamination and therefore it does not present any concern. She has visited the site with G. Light and R. Layne and neither of them is concerned about contamination at this site. She stated that they did, however, have concerns about the dump at the Borrow Pit #3, the pit nearest to the highway. R. Markey stated that in general dumps need to be covered and marked so no one digs into it. Also there need to be assurances that contaminants are not reaching groundwater.

5. **ACOE Huntsville Division September Site Visit** - Huntsville is the ACOE Center of Expertise for UXO (Unexploded Ordnance). A group of experts from Huntsville visited sites 9E and 10N to determine potential concerns. D. Westerman explained that it's extremely difficult to determine how far an artillery round will shoot. In order to get the precise distance, it requires several rounds. Initially, the gunner shoots a round short of its target. Then he/she shoots long, then short again, until eventually hits the actual target. This process is called registration. A spotter is used in the field to let the gunner know where the round landed. Once they've got their gun sighted in to the proper distance, they are ready to shoot the chemical warfare round to the intended Test Site target. It normally takes anywhere from four to ten rounds to register the gun. The military had a separate registration area set off to

the side of each Test Site, 9E and 10N. Drums filled with gravel were placed at the registration area to be used as a registration point. ACOE is worried that they don't have adequate records of how many rounds were fired or whether or not there were any duds at sites 9E and 10N. Huntsville experts visited the sites with both a magnetometer and a hand held EM-61 metal detector. They investigated 9E and 10N and will give recommendations on what they think should be done. Huntsville has no evidence of any duds and one piece of information that there might not be any duds. The ACOE Alaska District interviewed both test officers that were in charge of sites 9E and 10N, and were told that the artillery crews were required, as per the work plan, to notify the test officer of any anomalies that occurred during the registration process. Any anomalies would include duds. Neither test officer has any recollection of duds, and the ACOE has both test officer's logbooks from 1965 and 1966, which have no records of duds. The ACOE Alaska District is waiting for Huntsville's test results to come back and determine whether or not any of the 'signatures' they picked up looked like they'd be big enough to be of concern. D. Westerman added that the type of fuse used in the testing was very reliable. The ACOE Alaska District is not sure as to what they're going to do yet about the potential risk to the public.

D. Westerman further explained that an artillery round full of high explosives, when exploded, would break up into thousands of small pieces and scatter everywhere with fragments of a size no larger than a thumb. However, a chemical round would explode into several large pieces and few small fragments. In either case, fragments would be found scattered around and perhaps stuck in trees, etc. So far all that is being found at 9E and 10N are pieces of metal that would have been from high explosive (HE) rounds as opposed to chemical rounds. The ACOE Alaska District is waiting for the Huntsville results before determining the future action at 9E and 10N.

The group then took a 5-minute break from 7:55 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and reconvened to watch the video of the GREA.

6. **New Video** - A second video was made to help explain the process of what the ACOE is doing in regards to the Gerstle River Expansion Area. After watching the video, R. Markey suggested that the RAB members should be mentioned in the credits and also that more RAB and community input be included. She also suggested that ACOE should include information about the RAB and the fact that they do exist and are working on the problems. She also mentioned that information about concerns of other areas is not discussed in the video and probably should be. Sites 9E and 10N are not clearly mentioned in the video and some clarification is needed. The video states that the Gerstle River is 30 miles South of Delta. P.R. Miller stated that it's actually 30 miles East of Delta. B. Johnson suggested we hire

an independent 'historian' consultant to help research information about these test sites. This person could also review existing records and form an opinion about the sites.

7. **Future of RAB** - A. Elconin suggested that perhaps it's time that the RAB be dissolved because the ACOE work on potential chemical warfare munitions duds is nearly done. RAB members want to keep the RAB going but maybe not meeting as often, and instead maybe meet at six month intervals. T. Webb said the RAB should keep meeting on a regular basis, every 2-3 months. R. Markey suggested that since not all RAB members have attended this meeting, this matter should be discussed at the next meeting. There are still unresolved questions that need to be answered. I. Mead said that it is important to keep meeting until all questions and concerns are resolved. She is still concerned that there might be more areas and potential risks in the GRTS that are unknown. It was decided that the RAB would not be dissolved and would continue meeting regularly.

8. **Planned Future Actions** - T. Webb suggested that site boundaries should be reestablished and possibly re-fenced to keep the public out. This could be done by either fixing the existing fence or putting up a new one. He added that at least signs should be posted with warnings for the public to enter at their own risk. He said the ACOE should inform the public of what has happened at these former test sites. T. Webb also suggested that boundary roads should be established. A. Elconin said that the RAB should also try and get the Army involved in addressing this issue. Robert Jett is the Safety Officer at Ft. Greely and he is going to discuss the issue with them. He is currently putting up signs at other range areas and will consider signs at GRTS. R. Markey said that the community needs to be educated about these test sites so they can make their own decision as to whether or not they should enter them.

The subject of fire fighting policies at sites 9E and 10N was introduced. D. Westerman stated that the ACOE never received a fire fighting policy from the BLM. The BLM only asked the ACOE to send them the location for 9E & 10N. D. Westerman was under the impression that between BLM and the State of Alaska, the sites would be covered in a fire. However, the ACOE should contact them again and get the firefighting policy information.

A. Elconin said that ACOE will issue a report on regards of the job completed this year. This report, would not be a final and would only include the job performed this summer since all the contaminated soil have not been excavated yet. Also, the ACOE is still considering more work for sites 9E and 10N, based on the recommendation from Huntsville. The RAB members would like copies of this report too, as well as copies of the reports and or recommendations that Huntsville provides to the ACOE.

Meeting Minutes

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999, 6:00 p.m., Delta Junction Community Center, Delta Junction, Alaska

9. **Agency Comments** - R. Jett said that it had been a pleasure to be here and that he would get to work on the sign-issue. R. Markey said that Jennifer wanted her to mention that there is currently no site manager at ADEC for these sites but this is only temporary and as soon as one is assigned she will let everyone know who that person is. She will also try to identify any more concerns and what else needs to be done at the sites, for better planning on ADEC's part.



Meeting Minutes

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999, 6:00 p.m., Delta Junction Community Center, Delta Junction, Alaska

**10. Date, time, and proposed agenda items for the next RAB meeting**

Date: March 1, 2000

Time: 6 p.m.

Agenda: To be determined.

10:05 p.m. -Meeting adjourned.

# Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

November 10, 1999, 6:00 p.m.

Community Center, Delta Junction, AK



## Meeting Agenda

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- 1.) Approve agenda
  - 2.) Approve last 2 meeting minutes
  - 3.) Confirm new RAB members, if needed
  - 4.) Drum Removal Results
  - 5.) Huntsville Division September Site Visit
  - 6.) New Video
  - 7.) Future of RAB
  - 8.) Planned future actions
  - 9.) Agency comments
  - 10.) Date, Time, and proposed agenda Items for next RAB Meeting
-

**EXHIBIT A**  
**MEETING ADVERTISEMENTS**

DELTA WIND

## **GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA**



### **RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**Date: Wednesday, November 10, 1999**

**Time: 6 pm**

**Place: Delta Junction Community Center**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be holding a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for the Gerstle River Expansion Area. The meeting is open to all interested parties.

Topics to be discussed include results of the drum removal project, results of the Corps Huntsville division September site visit, and the future of the RAB. A new video on the Gerstle River Expansion Area project will also be shown.

For more information regarding this meeting, please contact:

Mrs. Andrea Elconin  
RAB Agency Co-Chair  
Corps of Engineers, Alaska  
(907) 753-5680

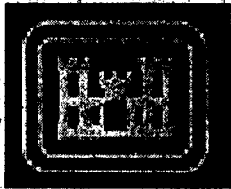
Mr. Tim Webb  
RAB Community Co-Chair  
Delta Junction, Alaska  
(907) 895-1024

PUBLISH: 10/28

AO-1034-008

DAILY NEWS MINER

## **GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**



**DATE:** Wednesday, Nov. 10  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Delta Junction  
Community Center

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be holding a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for the Gerstle River Expansion Area. The meeting is open to all interested parties.

*Topics to be discussed* include results of the drum removal project, results of the Corps Huntsville division September site visit, and the future of the RAB. A new video on the Gerstle River Expansion Area project will also be shown.

For more information regarding this meeting, please contact:

Ms. Andrea Elnonin  
RAB Agency Co-Chair  
Corps of Engineers, Alaska  
(907) 753-5680

Mr. Tim Webb  
RAB Community Co-Chair  
Delta Junction, Alaska  
(907) 895-1024

**EXHIBIT B**  
**SIGN-IN SHEETS**

GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING  
NOVEMBER 10, 1999

RAB Member Sign In Sheet

The information on this RAB sign-in roster will be attached to the summary of the RAB meeting and will be available to members of the public who have expressed an interest in the RAB proceedings. It will also be on file with other records of this RAB and available upon request to other members of the public. Your initials below will constitute permission for release.

NAME	ORGANIZATION OR APPLICABLE ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.	INITIALS
Audrey Brown	Community Member / Box 990, Delta Junction, AK 99737	895-5297	
Nat Good	Community Member / Box 827, Delta Junction, AK 99737	895-6282	
Irene Mead	Community Member / Box 186, Delta Junction, AK 99737	895-4813	J.M.
P.R. Miller	Community Member /	895-4493	
Tammy Webb	Community Member / HC 62 Box 5358, Delta Junction, AK 99737	895-1024	
Tim Webb	Community Member, RAB Co-Chair	895-1024	
Rielle Markey	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation	451-2117	RM
Robert J. H.	F.F. Greeley PO Box 8800 Delta Junction	873-1129	R.J.
Bill Johnson	ICRA Advisory Comm. - City Council	895-4034	W.B.
Andrea Elkonin	Corps of Engineers	753-5680	AE

~~JUNE 9, 1999~~ ~~8~~  
November 10, 1999

The information on this RAB sign-in roster will be attached to the summary of the RAB meeting and will be available to members of the public who have expressed an interest in the RAB proceedings. It will also be on file with other records of this RAB and available upon request to other members of the public. Your initials below will constitute permission for release.

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**EXHIBIT C**

**RAB MEMBER CONTACT LIST**

## RAB MEMBER CONTACT LIST

Audrey Brown	895-4537
Al Edgren	895-4225
Irene Mead	895-4813
P.R. Miller	895-4493
Tim & Tami Webb	895-1024